



# Arbitrator News

Monthly newsletter for the Juvenile Arbitration Program of  
Aiken, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties — January 2022

Bill Weeks, Solicitor  
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Nina Spinelli, Director

Newsletter Date: January 2022

## Did You Know:

According to the  
National Network for  
Youth:

- One in five runaway and homeless youth are a victim of human trafficking inclusive of sex and labor trafficking.
- 68% of the youth who had either been trafficked or engaged in survival sex or commercial sex had done so while homeless.
- 81% of labor trafficking cases involved forced drug dealing, often occurring as a result of familial and cultural coercion.

To learn more, please  
visit: [https://  
nn4youth.org](https://nn4youth.org)

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make 2021 a successful year for youth and families in the Juvenile Arbitration Program. From Youth ChalleNGe graduations, to community service days, to art classes and life skills classes, volunteers have made Arbitration a second chance for youth in our community. We look forward to starting 2022 with our ACTS Community Service Days and Cooking Matters with Clemson SNAP-ED.



## Arbitration on the Move

Arbitrators Bonnie Burnside and Elizabeth Coleman have each volunteered with the Juvenile Arbitration Program for over ten years.

Each has a unique passion in working with youth and together they help run the Cooking Matters Class offered quarterly by Clemson SNAP-Ed. Thank you to Elizabeth and Bonnie for your dedication and hard work!



## Citizen Review Panel



In December, the team of the Citizen Review Panel met to discuss 2021 achievements, 2022 goals, and membership activities.

Nina Spinelli with the Juvenile Arbitration Program helps co-chair the Midlands Panel with Brooke Wymer.

To learn more about the panel and how to become involved, please visit: [www.sc.edu](http://www.sc.edu)

## Nurture Home

The mission of Nurture Home is to provide women with a mental illness that are experiencing homelessness a safe place to thrive and restore stability within the Aiken community.

Nurture Home provides structured interventions to empower each of the women to become self-sufficient. With group support, Nurture Homes adds individualized services to improve the mental health of women.

Thank you to Kelly Jo Lynch for donating supplies to Nurture Home (pictured is Savannah Maddox with Nurture Home).





## Arbitration on the Move



Thank you to Arbitrator Wyman Pope for his support of the Juvenile Arbitration Program. Mr. Pope has volunteered with Juvenile Arbitration for over ten years and continues to support the program by completing hearings, providing community service support, and helping to arrange transportation to field trips. Thank you Mr. Pope!



## Community Service—Aiken Train Depot





## Community Service—Aiken Train Depot



The Juvenile Arbitration Program enjoyed partnering with Mental Health America—Aiken and creating a Mental Health Awareness Tree for the City of Aiken Parks, Recreation and Tourism Christmas Tree Party held at the Aiken Train Depot.

Thank you to the team at Mental Health America—Aiken (Savannah Maddox, Richard Garcia and Bonnie Fulghum) for their support.



## Alcohol Enforcement Team Meeting

Thank you to Tonya Avery and Steven Ryan (Aiken Center for Alcohol and Other Drugs) for leading the December 16 Alcohol Enforcement Team Meeting that includes community stakeholders such as USCA, Axis I and the Juvenile Arbitration Program.

Coupled with an active public education and prevention strategy, Alcohol Enforcement Teams (AETs) are intended to implement evidence-based environmental strategies to reduce underage alcohol use and its harmful consequences.



## Library Card Challenge



Youth in Arbitration continue to apply for library cards as a sanction.

Why the library card challenge? (Knox County Library):

- Children light up when they sign their name to their own library card. For many kids, a library card is the first card in their wallet with their name on it. They take pride in being a member of the library and having something that is their own.
- Asking children to be responsible for their card and items they've checked out teaches them to be accountable. They will begin to learn about consequences if they lose items.



## South Carolina National Youth in Transition Database

The graphic is divided into two main sections. The top section features a young man with long brown hair and a backpack, smiling, against a background of large, overlapping colored circles (yellow, green, red). To his left, white text on a dark background reads: "Be represented and help others! The NYTD survey is your chance to have your voice heard." The bottom section has a teal background. On the left, white text says: "Take the SC NYTD Surveys! Earn gift cards for each year you take the survey. Stay connected with us to have your say!" Below this, a circular graphic contains the text: "If we contact you about the survey, participate! You can take the survey by Phone, Mail, Online, or In Person." On the right, a birthday cake graphic shows gift card amounts for different birthdays: \$100 for the 21st, \$75 for the 19th, and \$50 for the 17th. A note at the bottom of the cake says: "Youth must be surveyed within 45 days of their 17th birthday." The bottom of the graphic has a purple banner with the text "NYTD SURVEY" in white.

**Be represented and help others! The NYTD survey is your chance to have your voice heard.**

**Take the SC NYTD Surveys!**

Earn gift cards for each year you take the survey.

Stay connected with us to have your say!

If we contact you about the survey, participate! You can take the survey by Phone, Mail, Online, or In Person.

21st Birthday \$100

19th Birthday \$75

17th Birthday\* \$50

\*Youth must be surveyed within 45 days of their 17th birthday.

**NYTD SURVEY**

NYTD stands for the National Youth in Transition Database. Part of this project includes getting input from youth who are in or have experienced foster care through the NYTD survey. The survey asks questions about education, health, finances, housing, relationships, and the transition out of care.



## Aiken State Park Community Service Day



Thank you to Aiken State Park Ranger Aaron Chavous, James Studdard and Douglas McGuinness for leading the Aiken State Park Clean-Up Day with Keep Aiken County Beautiful (Kandace Cave) and Arbitrator Heb Theiss with the Juvenile Arbitration Program.

**Twelve Volunteers** collected **14 bags** of litter across two miles of State Park Road. Thank you to all of the volunteers that make our clean-up day a success.





## National Alliance of Mental Illness



# Mental Illness and the CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

People with mental illness deserve help, not handcuffs. Yet people with mental illness are overrepresented in our nation's jails and prisons. We need to reduce criminal justice system involvement and increase investments in mental health care.

About **2 million times** each year, people with serious mental illness are booked into jails.



About **2 in 5** people who are incarcerated have a **history of mental illness** (37% in state and federal prisons and 44% held in local jails).

**66%** of women in prison reported having a history of mental illness, **almost twice the percentage of men** in prison.



Nearly **1 in 4** people shot and killed by police officers between 2015–2020 had a mental health condition.

Suicide is the **leading cause of death** for people held in local jails.



An estimated **4,000 people** with serious mental illness are held in solitary confinement inside U.S. prisons.

## COMMUNITIES



YOUTH

**70%** of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition.

Youth in detention are **10x more likely** to suffer from psychosis than youth in the community.

About **50,000 veterans** are held in local jails — 55% report experiencing mental illness.



VETERANS



PEOPLE OF COLOR

Among incarcerated people with a mental health condition, **non-white individuals** are more likely to be held in solitary confinement, be injured and **stay longer in jail**.

## ACCESS TO CARE

About **3 in 5 people** (63%) with a history of mental illness do not receive mental health treatment while incarcerated in state and federal prisons.



**45%**

Less than half of people with a history of mental illness **receive mental health treatment** while held in local jails.

People who **have health care coverage** upon release from incarceration are more likely to **engage in services that reduce recidivism**.



Data from the U.S. Department of Justice and other select sources. Find citations for this resource at [nami.org/mhstats](http://nami.org/mhstats)

NAMI HelpLine  
800-950-NAMI (6264)

f NAMI

@NAMIAdvocacy

@NAMICommunicate

www.nami.org

**nami**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness



## Juvenile Arbitration Program



Thank you to all of the volunteers who attended the Volunteer Lunch and 2021 Year in Review.

We were fortunate to hear from speakers Jean Lambert (South Carolina Chapter of Mental Health America) and Emma Rush (South Carolina Attorney General's Office).

We appreciate the time, talent and dedication of our volunteers.



## Social Media Class



Thank you to Education Coordinator Emma Rush, MSW, with the South Carolina Attorney General's Office for leading the December 20 Social Media and Internet Safety Class for youth in the Aiken community.

The next class is scheduled for Monday March 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Price Center.



## Bamberg County Courthouse



Thank you to the team at the Bamberg County Courthouse that helps make Juvenile Arbitration hearings successful.

The Juvenile Arbitration Program is able to host hearings at the courthouse and help meet youth and families where they are in their community.

Thanks you to Monica, Kimberly and Shenequa for all of their help in making the Juvenile Arbitration Program successful in Bamberg County.

## Listening Sessions

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is offering listening sessions as an opportunity to engage front line stakeholders in training and identifying areas for continuing technical assistance to become compliant with recent changes to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. To help focus discussions, they have identified session dates and times based around the disciplines.

**THE PARTNERSHIP**  
National Partnership for Juvenile Services

**Tuesday, January 4, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 pm ET**

Target Audience: Short Term/Juvenile Detention & Long Term Juvenile Corrections

**Thursday, January 6, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 pm ET**

Target Audience: Court Services & Community-Based Services

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 pm ET**

Target Audience: Behavioral Health/Clinical Services & Education

To register, please visit: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZGVMSVK](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZGVMSVK)

## Girls Circle



In 2021, the One Circle Foundation:

- Provided 52 trainings
- Trained 1,465 people
- Provided 105 partial training scholarships through their scholarship fund
- Welcomed two new people to the team of trainers: Danielle Sutherland and Christopher Emanuel (Teen After School Center)
- Welcomed three new board members: Christina Quaranta, Lauren Perry and Dr. Norrine Russell

The Girls Circle model, a structured support group for girls and youth who identify with female development from 9-18 years, integrates relational theory, resiliency practices, and skills training in a specific format designed to increase positive connection, personal and collective strengths, and competence in girls.

Girls Circle aims to counteract social and interpersonal forces that impede girls growth and development by promoting an emotionally safe setting and structure within which girls can develop caring relationships and authentic voices.

Our next round of Girls Circle online will begin in March 2022. Referrals will be available in packets.





### **Christmas Drive Community Service**

The Juvenile Arbitration Program enjoyed partnering with Shop Her Closet Community Center in Bamberg to help with their Toys for Tots Program. Thanks to the generous support of the community, over 3,000 toys were donated to children around the county. Thank you to CEO/Director Joy Haynes for her hard work in making this program successful.





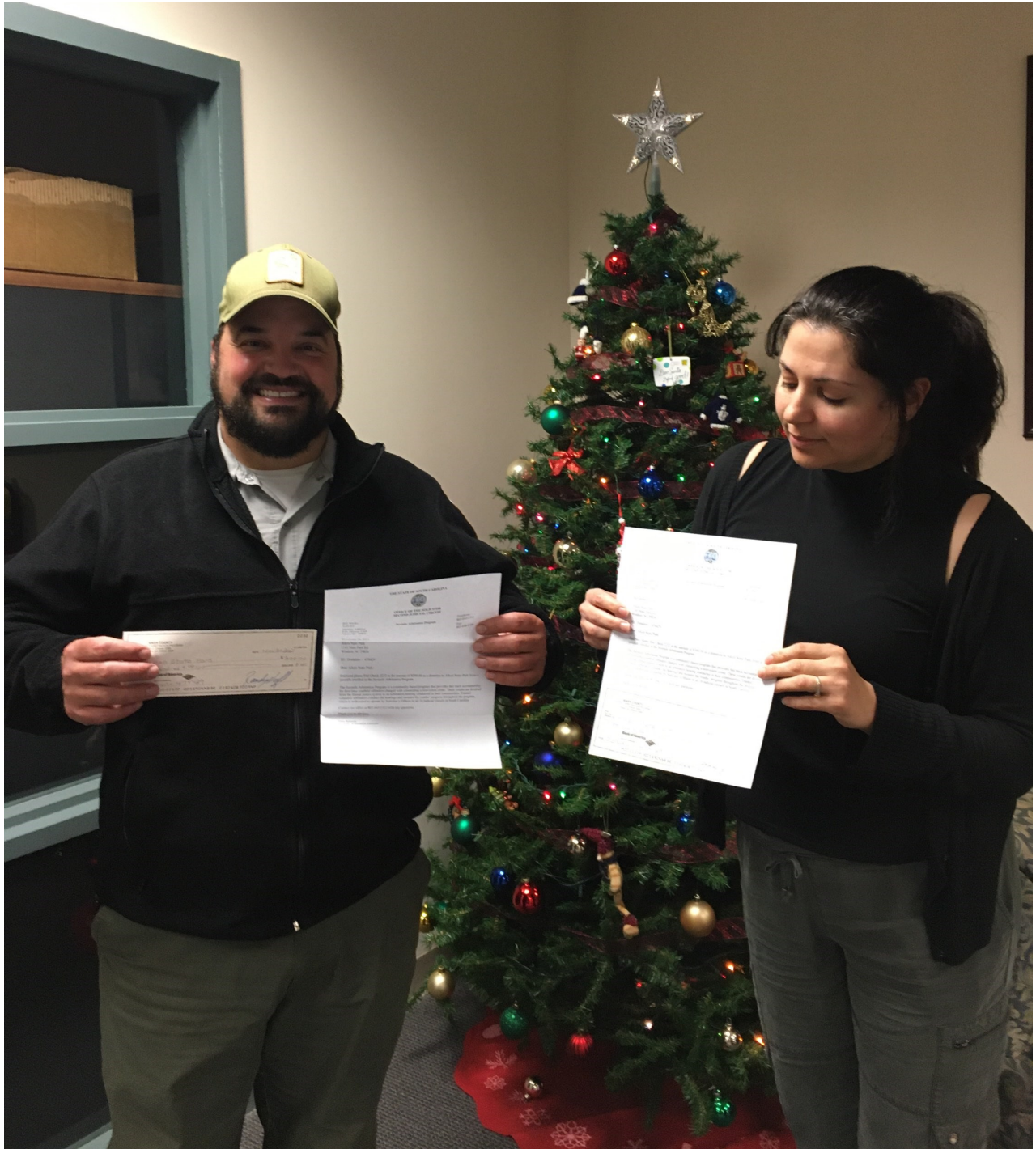
## Christmas Drive Community Service





## Aiken State Park

Youth in the Juvenile Arbitration Program have been hard at work collecting donations for community service agencies around the circuit. One young lady used her babysitting money to turn her community service project into a donation to Aiken State Park. Thank you to Park Ranger Aaron Chavous for his ongoing support of the Juvenile Arbitration Program.



According to



## Community Service Opportunity—First Day Hike



### FIRST DAY HIKE - COMMUNITY SERVICE

LET'S START YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION  
OUT ON THE RIGHT FOOT. JOIN A RANGER AT  
AIKEN STATE PARK AND ENJOY A 1.5-MILE  
HIKE AROUND JUNGLE TRAIL! WE'LL OBSERVE  
BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, LOOK AND LISTEN FOR  
WILDLIFE, AND JUST HAVE FUN.

JANUARY 1, 2022 - 3:00 - 4:00 PM

MEET AT THE PICNIC AREA

SECOND CIRCUIT  
JUVENILE  
ARBITRATION  
PROGRAM

211 York Street, NE  
Aiken, SC 29801

2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit  
P.O. Drawer 3368  
Aiken, SC 29802  
[nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov)

Bill Weeks, Solicitor  
Serena McDaniel,  
Assistant. Solicitor  
Nina Spinelli, Director

Calendar of Events

Ridge Spring ACTS  
Community Service Day:  
• January 19

Human Trafficking and  
Internet Safety:  
• March 21

Cooking Matters:  
• February 18

Alcohol, Tobacco and  
Other Drug Use  
Prevention:  
• January 5

Boater Safety:  
• January 7

Impact of Incarceration  
Tour:  
• February 2

**Blessing Box**

Youth with the Juvenile Arbitration Program are using their winter break to organize local food drives to help end food insecurity in our community.

According to Feeding America, **555,630** people in South Carolina are facing hunger. Charitable programs are unable to fully support those facing hunger. The combination of charity and government assistance programs are necessary to help bridge the meal gap.



**Feeding America**

1 in 9 people  
  
face hunger.

1 in 7  
**children**  
face hunger.

In South Carolina,  
555,630 people are facing  
hunger - and of  
them 161,030 are children.

People facing hunger in  
South Carolina  
are estimated to report needing

**\$279,337,000**  
more per year to meet their food needs.

The average cost of a meal  
in South Carolina is \$2.94.

To learn more, please visit:  
[www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)